



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/616,765
Filing Date: July 14, 2000
Applicant: Cockburn et al.
Group Art Unit: 1744
Examiner: Chris K. Moore
Title: DUAL FILTER VACUUM CLEANER APPARATUS
Attorney Docket: 0275S-000336

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 9, 2001, the undersigned elects with traverse the claims of Group 1 (1-11 and 27-30 for prosecution).

The Examiner has restricted the inventions in Groups I, II, III and IV as related subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. According to the Examiner, the subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiners restriction requirement under 35 USC § 121 with respect to Groups I and II. In this regard, Applicant respectfully asserts that Group II, specifically claims 12 – 26 drawn to a dual filter for a vacuum cleaner


should be included in prosecution together with Group I including claims 1 – 11 and 27 – 30, drawn to a hand-held vacuum cleaner with plural filters. It is respectfully submitted that examination of the Group II claims in addition to the Group I claims will not impose a serious burden upon the Examiner, and that the subject matter of these two groups of claims are sufficiently reasonably related such that examining both groups of claims would be in the best interest of both the Office and the Applicant.

The undersigned provisionally withdraws the claims of Groups II, III and IV, namely claims 12-26, 31-37 and 38-43, respectively, without prejudice to prosecute in one or more related applications.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Nov. 8, 2001

By: 
Mark D. Elchuk
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